

# Committee on Government Reform



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Lawmakers: Comprehensive Postal Reform a Priority in 2004**

**Washington, D.C.** – House Government Reform Committee Chairman Tom Davis (R-VA), Ranking Member Henry A. Waxman (D-CA), Rep. John M. McHugh (R-NY), head of the committee's Special Panel on Postal Reform and Oversight, and the special panel's Ranking Member, Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL), today signaled their commitment to making postal industry reform a top priority for the second session of the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress.

In meetings today with Treasury Secretary Snow, Postmaster General Potter, and the nine members of the Presidential Commission on the Postal Service tasked with studying the future of the postal industry, President Bush urged Congress to move quickly next year to pass postal reform legislation that adheres to five overarching principles. Those principles are:

- 1. Implement Best Practices:** Ensure that the Postal Service's governing body is equipped to meet the responsibilities and objectives of an enterprise of its size and scope.
- 2. Transparency:** Ensure that important factual information on the Postal Service's product costs and performance is accurately measured and made available to the public in a timely manner.
- 3. Flexibility:** Ensure that the Postal Service's governing body and management have the authority to reduce costs, set rates, and adjust key aspects of its business in order to meet its obligations to customers in a dynamic marketplace.
- 4. Accountability:** Ensure that a Postal Service operating with greater flexibility has appropriate independent oversight to protect consumer welfare and universal mail service.

- 5. Self-Financing:** Ensure that a Postal Service operating with greater flexibility is financially self-sufficient, covering all of its obligations.

***In response to the Administration's call to action, Reps. Tom Davis, Waxman, McHugh and Danny Davis released the following joint statement today:***

“We want to thank the Administration for continuing to highlight the need for postal reform, since we believe this is a critical, daunting issue,” the lawmakers said.

“Without a fundamental shift in the Postal Service, we face a series of unattractive options to keep the postal system operating. While the postal pension reform enacted earlier this year means rates will not rise until 2006 at the earliest, the Postal Service continues to be hampered by flagging revenue, high costs, and an untenable debt load. This crisis has been brewing for years, and it's time to act on comprehensive reform. Too many jobs, too many businesses and too many families are depending on us. We're committed to working in a bipartisan manner on postal reform when we reconvene in January, and we'll do so with close attention to the guiding principles laid out today by the President.”

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